

Indiana House of Representatives

News and Information

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VAN HAAFTEN: NEW METH RESTRICTIONS TAKE EFFECT ON JULY 1

INDIANAPOLIS – New laws scheduled to take effect in Indiana on July 1 will continue the state's ongoing efforts to halt the spread of methamphetamine by restricting access to cold medicines that contain ingredients used to make the deadly drug, according to State Rep. Trent Van Haaften (D-Mount Vernon).

"In recent years, Indiana has taken great strides in enacting initiatives that help reduce the production and use of meth," said Van Haaften, the only lawmaker who serves on a state-wide anti-meth task force. "Unfortunately, the scourge of meth has continued making it necessary for us to take larger steps. It remains easy to make this drug, and it can be produced using many materials that are found around the home and can be purchased easily. Indiana will now take steps taken elsewhere that have shown success in reducing the presence of these makeshift drug labs.

"The new laws taking effect on July 1 are the result of many months of study by the meth task force, which looked at methods used by other states to restrict access to medications containing ephedrine and pseudoephedrine, which are two common ingredients used to produce meth," he continued.

Hoosiers will see the impact of the new laws when they go to drugstores, grocery stores with pharmacies and convenience stores to purchase many of today's most recognizable cold medicines in tablet/caplet or liquid form, including Sudafed, Nyquil, Tylenol, Advil and Claritin.

"Rather than have these medications out on shelves for purchase, many of them will have restricted access," Van Haaften said. "Any medicine that contains more than 120 milligrams of ephedrine or pseudoephedrine, which translates to packages of more than four tablets, will be stored behind the counter, in a locked case or in an area that is under constant surveillance. Convenience packages that contain 120 milligrams or less will be more accessible, but these medications will have to be kept near the checkout stands.

"A person will not be able to purchase more than three grams of ephedrine or pseudoephedrine – about 100 tablets – at one time, or be able to purchase more than three grams in a one-week period of time," he added. "Any purchaser must show photo identification to the retailer, who will record the person's name, address and driver's license number. This information will go into a logbook that will be available to law enforcement in limited circumstances."

State police will develop a Meth Watch program to educate retailers and the general public on the manufacture of meth. A more uniform process to report the discovery and clean-up of meth labs will give officials a clearer picture of the numbers of labs in Indiana. Family services will be notified whenever a child under the age of 14 is found in a meth lab.

"The scourge of meth has traveled to all corners of Indiana. Overcrowded jails, broken families, lost employment and harm to children all have come in the wake of this addictive homemade drug. Legislators, law enforcement and all citizens must remain vigilant in responding to this ongoing threat," Van Haaften said. "Combating meth costs the state more than \$100 million each year, not to mention the terrible toll it extracts in the lives of those who take this drug. I am pleased to be a part of the passage of laws that allow us to take real strides in bringing this plague under control."